


# THE RECONCILING WORK OF CHRIST DISCUSSION QUESTIONS


EPHESIANS 2:11-20

- 1 **How have you observed or experienced Christ's work of reconciliation between two people?** Think about a situation of conflict or animosity that was ultimately resolved because of God's intervening work.


 *What are some of the unique ingredients that the gospel infuses into circumstances tension or enmity that help bring about peace?*

 *If you could say anything to two people in your life who are at odds, how would you guide them toward Christ-centered reconciliation?*

- 2 **Is there a person who has hurt you deeply?** How does looking at the reconciling work of Christ on the cross empower you to forgive?

 *What do you think are some of the hardest first steps toward reconciliation when you've been hurt?*


- 3 **Is there a person whom you have hurt deeply?** How does looking at the reconciling work of Christ on the cross empower you to seek forgiveness?

 *What do you think are some of the hardest first steps toward reconciliation when you are the offender?*

- 4 **Are there components of your background – nationality, first language, ethnicity, cultural preferences, social class, education, age, caste – that you use as a barrier to divide yourself from other Christians (even subconsciously)?** [1]

 *When a person over-values some of those things as being intrinsic to who they are, what is mistaken about their sense of identity?*

 *How does the gospel redefine our true identity in ways that eclipse the differences that would otherwise separate us?*

 *When someone says in their heart about another believer, "they are not my kind"[2] because of something superficial, non-essential, or*

*eternally insignificant, what spiritual deficiency does that expose?*

5 **When you think about the church in terms of it being a kingdom of fellow citizens, a family, or a temple/dwelling place for God, how does that reshape your view of it?** [3]

*Which of the three illustrations of the church (Eph 2:19-22) make the biggest impact on you and why?*

*How should Paul's emphasis in Ephesians 2 on the corporate nature of Christianity affect the way we view our spiritual journey?* [4]

6 **How does it affect you to reflect on your situation before Christ (Eph 2:11-12), and how are you encouraged when you consider your new status in Christ (Eph 2:13, 19-22)?**[5]

7 **Consider one of these Biblical stories of reconciliation and answer the questions according to the story: Onesimus and Philemon (Philemon 1:8-21), Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10), Euodia and Syntyche (Phil 4:1-3).**

*What drove the two parties apart?*

*What brought them together?*

*Was there a third party involved or needed?*

*What was at stake if reconciliation did not take place?*

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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[1] Richard Coekin, Ephesians For You (Epsom: The Good Book Company, 2017), 69.  
[2] Merida, Christ-Centered Exposition Exalting Jesus in Ephesians, 67.  
[3] Coekin, Ephesians For You, 77.  
[4] Merida, Christ-Centered Exposition Exalting Jesus in Ephesians, 68.  
[5] Merida, Christ-Centered Exposition Exalting Jesus in Ephesians, 68.